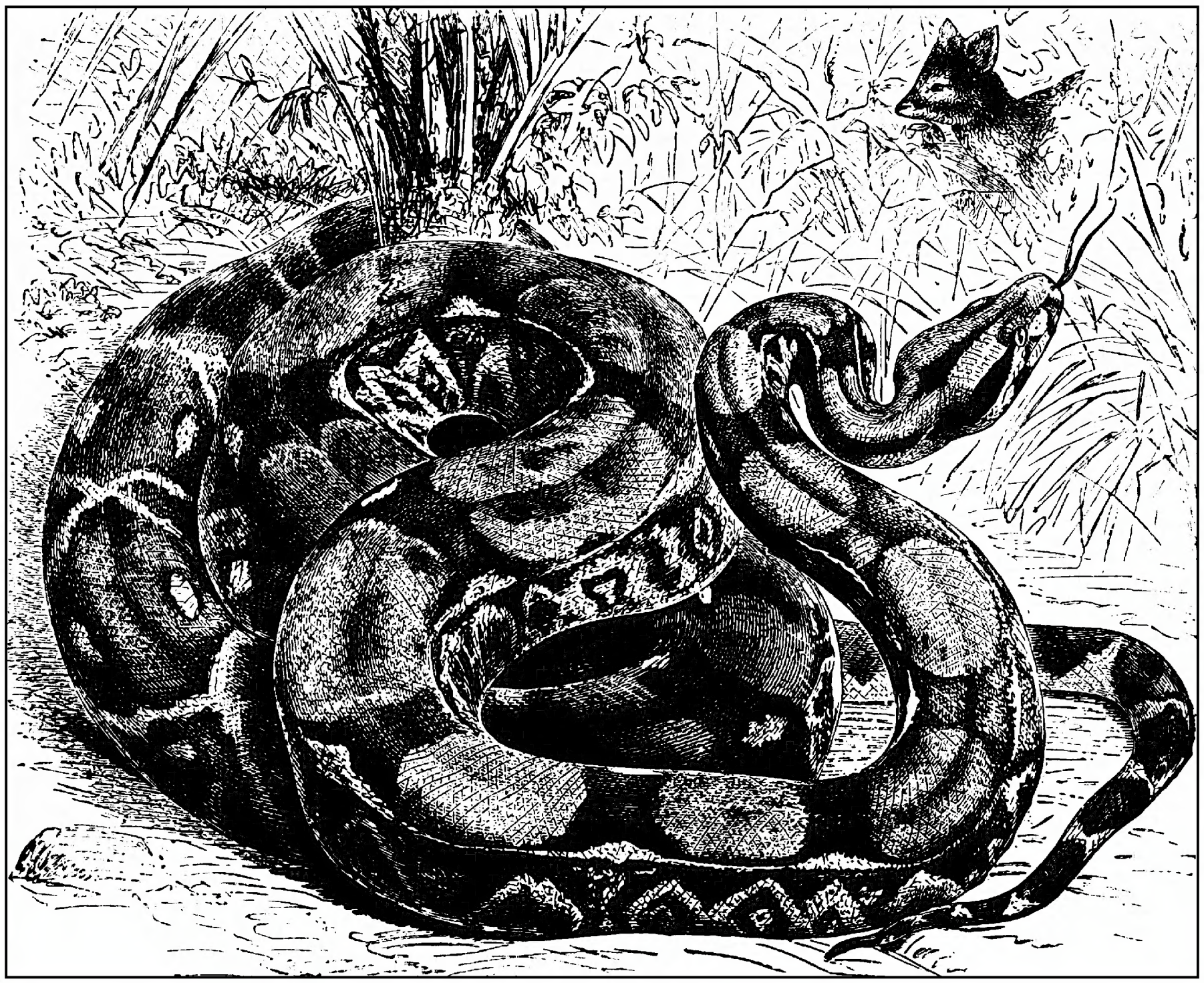
BULLETIN
of the
Chicago Herpetological Society

Volume 30, Number 10
October 1995



BULLETIN OF THE CHICAGO HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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Cover: Common boa constrictor. The drawing is from the *Library of Natural History, Volume V*, edited by Richard Lydekker, 1904.

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Manuscripts should be submitted in duplicate, typewritten and double spaced. Alternatively, submission of manuscripts in the form of IBM PC-compatible or Macintosh format diskettes is encouraged. Manuscripts and letters concerning editorial business should be sent to: Chicago Herpetological Society, Publications Secretary, 2060 N. Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60614. **Back issues** are limited but are available from the Publications Secretary for $2.50 per issue postpaid.

The BULLETIN of the Chicago Herpetological Society (ISSN 0009-3564) is published monthly by the Chicago Herpetological Society.
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Bull. Chicago Herp. Soc. 30(10):209-211, 1995

Notes on a Captive Propagation of the Colombian Boa Constrictor

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Introduction

I keep detailed records on all of the animals in my herpetological collection. I think that this is a very important aspect of herpetoculture and I strongly encourage all hobbyists to record as much information on their animals as possible. This has proven to be an invaluable resource for me as I can simply look back into my records and at a glance see when a specific animal began showing an interest in breeding the year before, when it ovulated, when it went off food, etc. The list goes on and on, but I think that I've made my point about detailed records being an important aspect of our hobby. When I decided to publish an article detailing a recent breeding success with one of my Colombian boa constrictors, it was really quite simple. I simply composed an introduction, a conclusion, and then between them added my collection notes! I included a couple of months before, and a couple of months after, what I would consider to be the normal breeding season on these animals and the rest should be self-explanatory.

Notes

Collection I.D. #91-c.b.-507.
Colombian Boa Constrictor, *Boa constrictor constrictor*.

09-12-94: 1 large rat (killed).

09-16-94: 1 large rat (live).

09-24-94: 1 large rat (live). [Pre-shed].

10-01-94: 1 large rat (live). [Pre-shed].

10-07-94: Shed.

10-08-94: 1 large rat (live).

10-15-94: 2 medium rats (killed).

10-22-94: Refused food. I introduced her into #89-c.b.-508 male's cage.

10-29-94: Observed breeding behavior with #89-c.b.-508 male.

10-31-94: 1 large rat (killed).

11-01-94: Cut off all supplemental cage heat. They are still being kept in the snake-room where the average cage temperature is approximately 80°F with no daytime/nighttime drop.

11-10-94: 1 large rat (live). [Pre-shed].

11-11-94: Shed. 1 large rat (live).

11-14-94: 1 large rat (live).

11-18-94: Added Chet's #90-8 female to the group on a breeding loan. The animals have now been moved out of the snake-room and into the main section of the basement, which has no supplemental heat (I was unable to get the cage temperature low enough in the snake-room). I have set the group up on a 24-hour cycle with a 12-hour daytime high of approximately 82°F and then a 12-hour nighttime drop to approximately 70-72°F.

12-13-94: Removed from #89-c.b.-508 male's cage after having observed several instances of breeding behavior. [#89-c.b.-508 male is in a pre-shed]. 1 large rat (live).

12-18-94: 1 large rat (live).

12-22-94: Reintroduced into #89-c.b.-508 male's cage. The male has just shed.

12-31-94: Removed from #89-c.b.-508 male's cage after having observed breeding behavior. Refused food.

[Pre-shed]. I introduced one of Chet's young males (#91-9) into the #89-c.b.-508 male's cage. I will leave the males together until I reintroduce the females in an effort to stimulate the #89-c.b.-508 male.

01-04-95: 1 large rat (killed). [Pre-shed].

01-08-95: Shed. Reintroduced to #89-c.b.-508 male's cage after having removed Chet's #91-9 male.

01-11-95: Observed breeding behavior.

01-12-95: Chet's #90-8 female appears to be exhibiting breeding behavior towards her. Could Chet's #90-8 female be a male as I have observed no apparent interest towards it from my #89-c.b.-508 male?

01-13-95: Removed Chet's #90-8 animal from the group. Probing of the animal "appears" to indicate that it was actually a male. This, coupled with the fact that a closer observation of the animal revealed some "rather large" pelvic spurs, would lead me to believe that the animal is in fact a male. 1 medium rat (killed). From this point on, I will be keeping the food items rather small as a friend of mine has cautioned me that too large of prey items can damage any developing embryos.

01-18-95: Observed the infamous "mid-body swelling" at approximately 2:00 A.M. when I got home from work. The swelling was gone in the afternoon when I awoke and checked on her again. I spoke with Bob Clark (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma), and he advised me that the "mid-body swelling" may only last a matter of hours; therefore it would not be unusual that I was unable to observe it later in the day. I also spoke with Dr. James Krantz (Kenosha, Wisconsin), who has had successful breedings with his Colombian boas for the last two years in a row. He conceded that he has yet to observe the brief "mid-body swelling" with any of his gravid females. I then spoke with Lloyd Lemke (Visalia, California), and he asked me when the last time was that I had observed breeding behavior with her. I advised him that it would have been about a

week earlier, on 01-11-95. He said that was good as she should still maintain some viable sperm from that copulation. He suggested that I keep her at cooler temperatures for about another week to give her a chance to fertilize the releasing ova without getting the sperm too warm.

01-21-95: Observed breeding behavior.

01-24-95: Posterior third of her body is definitely swollen. Removed from #89-c.b.-508 male's cage in the main section of the basement and placed back into snake-room. Set up in a cage that is approximately 84-85°F., with a heating pad under one side creating a hot-spot of approximately 92°F. 1 small rat (killed).

01-30-95: 1 small rat (killed).

02-09-95: 1 small rat (killed).

02-15-95: Posterior third of her body is *definitely* swollen! This area of her body has swollen to the point that I can see skin in between the animal's scales and there is no mistaking the fact that she is *definitely* gravid! I spoke with Pete Kahl (Peter Kahl Reptiles), and he has advised me that the gestation period for Colombian boas should be approximately 120 days after they ovulate. Based upon the assumption that she ovulated on 01-18-95 (the date that I observed the "mid-body swelling"), then I can calculate her "due-date" to be 05-18-95. 1 small rat (killed).

02-27-95: For the last week or so I have noted some very definite thermoregulating behavior with her as would be expected from a gravid boid. She has been moving back and forth between the cooler side of her cage (which is now approximately 85°F), and the warmer side of her cage which has a heating pad placed underneath it creating a "hot-spot". The temperature directly above the heating pad is approximately 93°F. In Ross and Marzec's book (*The Python and Boa Breeding Manual*), they state that 85°F is the optimum temperature for gravid boids, the temperature at which the highest number of live births has been reported. 1 medium rat (frozen/thawed).

03-05-95: 1 medium rat (frozen/thawed).

03-14-95: 1 medium rat (killed).

03-22-95: 1 medium rat (killed).

03-30-95: 1 small rat (killed).

04-04-95: 1 medium rat (killed).

04-15-95: Shed. 1 medium rat (killed).

04-26-95: 1 medium rat (killed).

05-13-95: Refused food.

06-10-95: Delivered 29 *perfect* neonates! No deformities, and no unfertilized ova (or "slugs"). The gestation period for the female turned out to be 143 days, a little bit longer than the 120 days that I had projected. All of the babies were housed jointly in a 65-quart Rubbermaid storage box containing moistened sphagnum moss. Pete Kahl (Peter Kahl Reptiles) had recommended maintaining them in this manner until their first shed at which time they could be sexed and separated, etc.

All of the babies shed on 06-18-95 (8 days after being born) and on 06-27-95 I sexed, weighed, and separated them. The sex ratio was 13.16; it was a very pleasant surprise to have extra females to deal with as I was planning on "holding-back" a few of the females from this clutch anyway. I attempted to feed the neonates immediately after probing them and 23 out of the 29 accepted meals of hopper mice with little or no hesitation (79% of the clutch accepting food the first time it was offered). The next day another four out of the remaining six babies accepted meals (making it 93% of the clutch accepting food within the first two days of it being offered).

The remaining two "hold-outs" were both feeding within the next three days (bringing my feeding ratio up to 100% of the clutch accepting food with-in the first week of it being offered to them). The female was exceptionally agitated for about the first week after delivering her babies. She would strike against the sliding glass door of her cage whenever I would walk by and she had a swollen mouth for several days afterwards from hitting it against the glass. I finally solved this problem by hanging a blanket across the glass so that she could not see me as I walked by. The animal normally has a very calm disposition.

06-11-95: 1 large rat (killed).

06-12-95: 1 large rat (frozen/thawed).

06-17-95: Appears VERY skinny. 2 large rats (killed). [Pre-shed].

06-18-95: No longer agitated or aggressive towards me.

06-25-95: Shed. Appears noticeably lighter than she did during her pregnancy, during which time she had really darkened up.

07-01-95: 3 large rats (killed).

07-08-95: 2 large rats (frozen/thawed).

07-26-95: 1 large rat (killed).

07-27-95: 1 medium rat (live).

07-28-95: 1 large rat and 1 medium rat (live).

08-06-95: 1 medium rat (killed). [Pre-shed]. Starting to put on some weight and doesn't appear to be as skinny as she did immediately after giving birth.

Conclusion

In closing, I would strongly recommend the Colombian boa constrictor as an enjoyable animal to work with for anyone from the beginning hobbyist all the way up to the most advanced herpetoculturist. The beginning hobbyist can pick up neonate "pet-grade" Colombian boas for under a hundred dollars, which would certainly make this an "available" starter-snake. The advanced herpetoculturist can spend literally thousands and thousands of dollars purchasing anything from anerythristic animals (lacking any red pigmentation), to supposedly "true" genetically-striped individuals, and finally the

"very hot" amelanistic (albino) morph. The latter can certainly set you back a few bucks as I just picked up a lone male at an initial asking price of $6,500. Yes, I'm still married! (Very understanding wife in this department!). Finally, I think that the key to the successful breeding of these animals is to *leave them alone* during the courtship process. You'll notice that not once in my notes did I mention that I actually *observed* copulation. I referred many times to observing "breeding behavior" as that is about the extent of what I saw . . . the male pursuing the female around the cage trying to line up his tale with hers. What I actually did, and I feel that this contributed greatly to my successful breeding, was to hang large beach towel over the front of the cage to give the privacy. In the beach towel I cut a hole out about the size of a quarter at each end and used these holes for quick and unobtrusive observations of the animals. This method seemed to work quite well. Finally, during the female's actual gestation period I think that the appropriate cage temperature will determine whether or not you're going to get viable babies or the infamous "slugs." In addition to having a "hot-spot" available where the temperature is somewhere in the low- to mid-90s, I strongly feel that the entire rest of the cage should be kept as close to 85°F as possible. In my 25+ years of keeping snakes as a hobby, I cannot think of anything that has been as rewarding to me than glancing into that Boa's cage during the middle of the night and literally seeing a "puddle" of newborn gems looking back up at me. Pretty neat hobby, huh guys!!!

Adult Colombian boa constrictor shortly after giving birth to 29 **PERFECT** neonates!!! With the exception of watching my three little kids grow up, I don't think life gets any better than this! O.K., a random color or pattern mutation would have been nice!

Bull. Chicago Herp. Soc. 30(10):211-212, 1995

Book Review: *Mediterranean Tortoises* by B. Pursall 1994. TFH Publications, Inc. Neptune City, NJ. 95pp. Softbound. $8.00.

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This is a difficult book to review. On one hand the clear inability of TFH Publications to understand what goes into producing a factual book becomes at times comical; on the other, the author shares a lot of good first-hand information on the husbandry of two of the most commonly kept species of tortoises.

Pursall provides useful information and anyone who has kept *Testudo* in captivity will appreciate what he has to say, but before I get into this I must comment on the publisher. In most texts it is difficult to separate the failings of the author from those of the publisher. Not in this case—the contrast of an author with experiences to share and TFH's mediocre publications is obvious. I can't recall the last time I opened a book that lacked a title page. Because of this I will never know if "Completely Illustrated in Exquisite Color" is actually to be considered part of the book's title. Problems, like those in most TFH publications, start with the cover. The title "Mediterranean Tortoises" implies that the book is about the genus *Testudo*, a complex of species found throughout the Mediterranean region. These tortoises are members of a geographically and taxonomically discrete group, so a composite coverage would seem a natural subject for a book. In reality the book only discusses Greek [= spur-thighed] tortoises (*T. graeca*) and to a much lesser extent Hermann's tortoises (*T. hermanni*) in detail. The other three Mediterranean species receive about one-half paragraph of text each. To make up for this oversight the publisher provides photographs (many seen before in other TFH books) of Galapagos, Aldabra, Chaco and Indian star tortoises, and inexplicably some photos of bog turtle art objects. The photographs are each labeled with an inconsistent mixture of scientific names, standard common names, fairy-tale names, or no names at all. Most of the illustrations are scattered throughout the book with no particular relationship to the text. The half-page color portrait of a captive "Giant Seychelles Tortoise" with its head cropped out of the field of view deserves special mention. Two of the five species of Mediterranean tortoises—Egyptian and marginated—are not illustrated at all.

TFH's shortcomings as a publisher dominate the book's pages. They are even apparent in the book's organization, through a general lack of explanation of illustrations and figures, and in its pseudo-index. For example, consider the series of 11 color photographs between pages 56 and 64. The photographs, several of them quite good, were placed in a chapter entitled "The Sick Tortoise," yet all but one (a tortoise with shell rot) illustrate healthy animals. My wife, thumbing

through the book inquired, "What's wrong with these?" The full-page photos of the plastrons of young Greek and Hermann's tortoises are shots of healthy captives, but printed across the top of the two facing pages was "The Sick Tortoise."

One of the recurring problems with TFH is philosophical. Apparently they are not content with producing a book on a defined subject, they strive for global, perhaps even interplanetary readership. Despite the author's warning that his observations pertain to specific captive situations, scattered throughout the book are paragraphs of noninformation on rainforest tortoises, equatorial island tortoises and desert tortoises. The book ends with a two-page chapter entitled "Other Species and Other Places." For anyone even remotely familiar with tortoises this chapter is elementary and insulting, and for those who are not, it contains no useful information.

Several other chapters in the book are also deficient, to the point that one wonders what type of TFH committee makes up the formulas to sell books to unsuspecting browsers of pet store bookshelves. For example, the zoogeography and evolution of the genus *Testudo* seems tacked-on and is covered in only two pages of text. Another two pages covers subspecies identification. This is a potentially useful chapter that would benefit greatly from photographs of adults of the taxa being discussed. Only *T. graeca* is covered and four subspecies are discussed, with three of these being further broken down into "eastern and western races." There is no doubt that the geographic variation of Greek tortoises is complex, that the author and TFH editors have no understanding of taxonomic principles, and that a good systematic monograph of the species seems highly desirable; however, a chapter of this type—with no literature citations—borders on criminal. Other chapters or major portions of them are highly flawed, but they probably contain some information that would be of use to a novice.

Other typical "field marks" of TFH's quick—but to their credit, inexpensive—books abound. Besides the sprinkling of inappropriate photographs with irrelevant captions, there are inaccuracies, misinformation repeated (e.g., *Malacochersus* hide in rock fissures and expand their shells), lack of editing or critical review and a visually disruptive layout. Most importantly the book suffers from the absence of documentation of key statements. The problems with the book lie somewhere between the obvious and the laughable, so with luck they will not completely mask the valuable core of the text.

The book starts off directly with a dedication to three of the author's pets that each died from various ailments common to captive tortoises. A somewhat strange beginning, but in fact, many of our current insights into tortoise husbandry have come not from successes but through clinical study of failures. It is clear that the author is one who is capable of learning from negative experiences. In the preface Pursall notes that between 1946 and 1984 approximately 150,000 Greek tortoises were imported into the United Kingdom each year. [Note: Even with improved regulations large numbers still continue to be exported from the wild. In just the last five years over 9,400 Greek tortoises were imported here, making it the sixth most frequently imported species of turtle in the United States (Bright, 1994, An Analysis of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Reptile and Amphibian Numbers in Their LEMMIS System. Unpublished.)] Approximately 80% die within the year of import. The author's purpose in writing the book is clearly stated: "I can almost guarantee that any tortoise keepers changing from previously accepted methods to those advocated here will experience a dramatic change in general health, life expectancy, level of activity, and general appearance of their charges." After studying the book I have confidence in the author's husbandry methods.

Thus, despite all of the problems built into the publication, including a lot that were not addressed in this review, this is a useful book for anyone interested in keeping *T. graeca* or *T. hermanni*. The author obviously has a lot of first-hand experience with *graeca* and has shared the information in several key chapters. The information in Pursall's chapters on temperature control, hibernation, breeding, incubation and housing is excellent and is an important contribution. The chapters on diet, behavior and the sick tortoise contain good information for people not already familiar with tortoise husbandry and a number of interesting points for those who are. The latter chapter could benefit from better organization, but it contains a discussion of the ailments one frequently encounters in tortoises, and identifies the problems of a number of less-than-useful treatments that unfortunately are still in use.

Pursall has an inquiring mind and has come up with a step-by-step, how-to guide for the care of *T. graeca*, and by inference, for other species of temperate tortoises. His common-sense techniques, while not radical, are nevertheless detailed, and he provides precise information on such critical points as ideal hibernation temperature, inducing females to lay eggs, and the proper treatment of common ailments of tortoises. The text is obviously British and clearly some of the husbandry methods suggested in the book will be unnecessary to those of us in the U.S. keeping *Testudo* in milder climates. Set aside your academic training and your need for elaborate scientific documentation. Cringe if you must at statements that seem to be, and are, oversimplified glittering generalities laced with misinformation. The core of this book remains a methodology that will be a good baseline for long-term care and breeding of two species of *Testudo* and good food for thought in establishing parameters for keeping other species of tortoises.

This book is useful to anyone who is serious about learning about tortoise husbandry or fine-tuning what they now already know. Unfortunately *Mediterranean Tortoises* is also a classic example of the total prostitution of an inexperienced author by a money-driven publishing company. I full well understand that it is necessary for a publishing company to be concerned with profit. Nonetheless, a poorly prepared book on home kidney transplants would be considered by all to be totally irresponsible. Yet publishers can continue to sell books that are full of nonsense about captive care of wild animals with little consequence (except to the animals). Fortunately, because of the author's extensive knowledge of *Testudo* care the publisher gets a partial pardon on this one. Mistrust facts, ignore the oversimplified concepts of tortoise biology, but try the methodology. Hobbyists can make good contributions and I believe Pursall's are sound.

Bull. Chicago Herp. Soc. 30(10):213-215, 1995

HerPET-POURRI

by Ellin Beltz

Giant tortoises rediscovered!

Two large male tortoises kept in a hotel garden in Seychelles were determined to represent a species (*Geochelone arnoldi)* believed to have gone extinct in the mid-1800s. Genetic testing and other analysis will be performed to confirm the identification, which is based on shell morphology. Up to now, only the Aldabra tortoise (*Geochelone gigantea*) was known to survive. That species has about 150,000 individuals. [*ZooGoer*, July/August 1995, from Karen Furnweger]

It wasn't the roadrunner going "beep-beep"

Ok, folks, I've read them all, but this may be the story of the year if not the decade. For the last 20 years, hunting dogs have disappeared in a Florida panhandle state forest. Owners thought there was a dog theft ring at work. So they started putting radio-tracking collars on the dogs, some of which are worth thousands of dollars. Four days after the most recent disappearance, a faint signal was received from a couple of missing dogs' collars while the owners were looking around a creek. The trail of the missing dogs had led to a beeping alligator. State-contracted gator hunters harpooned a 10-foot, 11-inch alligator whose stomach contained seven collars and tag sets from missing hunting hounds. Estimated to be 50 years old, the gator treated the hunting trails as a private larder; fortunately he ignored a popular human swimming spot less than a quarter of a mile away. [August 29, 1995, Houma, LA *Courier* and New Orleans *Times-Picayune*, from Ernie Liner; *Chicago Tribune*, from Robert J. Paluch and Ray Boldt]

Put the snake hooks away

Allen Salzberg of NYTTS sent a copy of a press release from the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Conservation (DEC) dated May 19, 1995: "Taking of timber rattlesnakes brings penalties for two men. Concern and quick thinking of witnesses on a Columbia County trail were responsible for the apprehension and subsequent arrest of two men for taking timber rattlesnakes, a New York threatened species, from a natural habitat. Following arrest and a court appearance on May 16, [the] brothers . . . entered guilty pleas for illegal taking and possession of a threatened species. Staff from the Berkshire Office of The Nature Conservancy were doing field work on timber rattlesnakes in the Mount Alander area. Upon seeing two men carrying snake catching sticks and burlap bags, the staff used a cellular telephone to report the suspicious activity to . . . police. The officers encountered the men . . . , a search revealed bags containing two timber rattlesnakes and other species of snakes. The two men were placed under arrest and transported to the Taghkanic Town Court and their vehicle was towed. . . . In recent years timber rattlesnake populations have been depleted by the illegal commercial taking of many snakes for the live animal trade. The timber rattlesnake is legally protected in New York State and other northeastern states (NJ, CT, VT, NJ, MA, OH, IN) as a threatened or endangered species. Under New York's Environmental Conservation Law, taking, possessing, transporting, or selling a timber rattlesnake in New York without an endangered species permit is prohibited. For more information about threatened or endangered species in New York State call DEC's Endangered Species Unit at (518) 439-7635."

Range extensions

- "An unidentified floating object may be alligator in Round Lake" says the headline in the May 19, 1995, *Chicago Tribune*. It says that while a woman and her three kids were at the lakefront at Round Lake Beach, they saw something odd in the water. They called the police, who put the town under an alligator alert. "At this point, people should be careful around the area," said a police sergeant. [from Steve Ragsdale]

- A 3-foot alligator was captured in a lake in Queens, which is a borough of New York City. Fishermen had reported seeing it hissing in Kissena Park Lake. A daycamp worker grabbed the gator barehanded and a coworker rubberbanded its mouth shut. Henry Stern, New York Parks Commissioner, said they think it was a released pet, adding that the former owner "probably thought it was very cute until it got big." Keeping alligators is illegal in the Big Apple. [Orlando, FL *Sentinel*, July 28, 1995, from Bill Burnett]

But they make great pets . . . or do they?

- From Reuters: Police in the southern state of Johor in Malaysia say a 23-foot-long python attacked at 29-year-old man, squeezed him to death, and then tried to swallow him. The snake's attempt at swallowing the body was interrupted by the arrival of police brought by the man's older brother. Police shot the python to death. A zoologist says the python is one of the biggest he has ever seen in Malaysia. He says this is the first time he has heard of a python trying to devour an adult human. . . . In 1912, a python was shot in Malaysia that measured 32 feet, 9.5 inches long. [September 7, 1995, from Robert Paluch off the wires]

- A Wisconsin man was bitten on the nose by a 13-year-old, eight-foot-long python during a routine tank cleaning at the University of Wisconsin–Madison veterinary school. The man had handled the snake hundreds of times before. The prof said, "Those two to three minutes [while we were trying to get the snake off] weren't fun. . . . [The student] was a good sport. He was as cool as a cucumber." Several snake teeth were found in the man's nose during his hospital exam. [Wisconsin *State-Journal*, August 26, 1995, from Maggie Jones]

- The Des Plaines, IL *Times* reports that their fire and police departments were called out to help a woman reportedly hysterical after finding a sizeable snake in her son's dresser drawer where she was trying to put clean clothes. The snake was stuffed into a pillowcase and taken to an animal hospital where it was identified as a 7½-foot-long Burmese python. The police chief said that, when questioned, the son admitted buying the snake at a reptile show a couple of months before it scared his mother. He has since taken the snake out of Des Plaines to a friend in De Kalb. The boy figured "if someone

was allowed to sell it to him, it must be legal," said the police chief. Possession of pythons over six feet in length is against the Dangerous Animals Act enforced by the Illinois Departments of Agriculture and Animal Welfare. The owner of a Lincolnwood pet shop was quoted, "The Department of Agriculture forbids us selling larger specimens. They confiscate them. But we get domestically bred hatchlings all the time. Unfortunately, people who are aware that larger snakes are illegal often starve them to keep them undersized." [August 24, 1995, from Claus Sutor]

• A man permitted to take a python on board a Continental flight as an "assisted animal" opened the zipper on the gym bag in which it was being transported, and—lo and behold—the snake got out. The snake reportedly got as far as the seat behind where a couple and their five-year-old daughter were sitting. The couple is now suing the airline for "allowing a python to nearly attack their . . . daughter as she slept in her seat." [Austin, TX *American-Statesman* August 20, 1995, from William B. Montgomery]

• A small menagerie which included a 10-foot Burmese python and an alligator was confiscated by Louisiana wildlife agents and parish animal control workers. Jefferson Parish has a stringent exotic animal law which does not permit keeping exotic animals. The owner said he didn't know the animals were illegal. He found the alligator dodging cars on a nearby highway and the snake was purchased years ago in a pet shop. [New Orleans *Times-Picayune*, July 28, 1995, from Ernie Liner]

Didn't Canada used to have only a few species?

• A new reptile exhibit, Windsor Reptile World, has opened just across the scenic Detroit River from the town of the same name. Run by Blue and June Enright, their mission is to provide an educational experience, share the results of their breeding projects, and encourage an appreciation of the diverse forms of life on our planet. You can contact them at 853 Division Road, P.O. Box 1089, Windsor, Ontario, Canada N9A 6P4, (519) 966-1762.

• The second Canadian Herpetological Symposium was held in Alberta in mid-September. Part of the event was held in a Drumheller hotel, the other part at the Tyrell Museum. Speakers included Quentin Bloxam, Richard Ross, Thomas Huff, Jim Murphy, Ziggy Jones, Bob Lloyd, Ernie Cooper ("Take Two Geckos and call me in the Morning"—a discussion of Asian pharmacology), Lynne Andrews, Dave Bethel, Pat Wise and Greg Bracken. For those with access to the WWW, the Tyrell Museum has a nifty website with dinosaurs.

• "Kinky sex is coming to Manitoba. . . . A massive display of serpentine passion. . . . Imagine the pyramid scene from *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, but on a much grander scale. . . . We're talking 50,000 [snakes] here. . . . Ok, so maybe not the place for a honeymoon." Earthwatch volunteers are counting Manitoba garter snake breeding aggregations! They're getting great press and writers trip over themselves to cover the story with as many allegories and puns as is humanely possible. [*USA Today*, July 21, 1995, from Bill Burnett]

Ophidia, ophidia

• Graham's crayfish snakes were sighted in West Chicago's DuPage County for the first time in 1966. CHS member Michael Redmer, an animal ecology specialist with the Forest Preserve District was at the site when the snake was found and confirmed the identification. He said, "This is an exciting find." They photographed the animal and released it immediately. [*Chicago Tribune* May 26, 1995, from Steve Ragsdale]

• An Indian man's lifelong dream of having his photo taken with a cobra around his neck put short to life itself, according to a clipping from the *Indian Express* (July 11, 1995, from Rom Whitaker). Seems the cobra was patient all the way from the forest to the photographer, but then bit the man who died in moments.

• Rom's letter said that the Centre for Herpetology of the Madras Crocodile Bank Trust is planning on radio-tracking king cobras to study life history and habitat utilization of that species. However, they need to raise money for telemetry equipment which will be purchased in the U.S. Are there any scaly-godmothers out there? (The furry ones are welcome, too. *Ophiophagus hannah* only eats snakes.) You can write the trust at Post Bag No. 4, Mamallapuram-603 104, Tamil Nadu, South India or Fax: 091-044-491 9 10, 4918747 for more information about contributing to their project.

• A third resident of Prince William County, Virginia, was bitten by a pet cobra and taken to hospital where he was saved by prompt injection of antivenin. The first two incidents were in the late summer of 1993, after which the county passed stringent laws limiting exotic pets. The laws may have nearly cost the newest bitee his life. Seems he hesitated to seek treatment for fear of losing his snake collection. [Richmond, VA *Times-Dispatch*, July 20, 1995] The man was subsequently charged with two counts of possessing exotic animals including seven tarantulas and two monocled cobras. "Police said [the man] would be charged as soon as he is able to leave Fairfax Hospital. He was listed in fair condition. . . ." [same paper, July 23, 1995, both from Mr. Laverne A. Copeland]

• One more person has been bitten by an exotic venomous snake in central Florida. The Fire Chief of Winter Park had been raising snakes for 40 years with no problems, but was bitten by an Australian black snake while he was changing the water for his 80 snakes before leaving on a trip. He did not require antivenin treatment. [Orlando, FL *Sentinel*, July 17, 1995, from Bill Burnett]

• Mr. George VanHorn's treatment continues. He underwent nearly 12 hours of surgery for complications arising from his near-fatal king cobra bite. He's been in treatment ever since June. The most recent procedure was a muscle transplant from his back into his left arm which had become infected from the bite. Dead tissue has been removed several times and that had left tendons exposed. A trust fund for his treatment has been established. His bills are about $100,000 so far and still climbing. VanHorn only had a "bare-bones" medical insurance policy. The bite wasn't covered. [Orlando, FL *Sentinel* July 18, 1995, from Bill Burnett/*Keynoter*, July 28, 1995, from Dee Fick, Florida Keys Herp. Society]

• Relatives of a woman who died while handling a four-foot-long timber rattlesnake as part of a worship ceremony were upset that charges may be filed against the minister who said, "It's just a misdemeanor. It wouldn't bother me none if it was a felony. It's still the Word." A 1942 Kentucky law makes it illegal to handle or display snakes during services; violations are punishable by $50–100 fines. The 28-year-old mother of five was the 76th person to die since the church was founded in 1900. The dead woman was married to a widely known snake-handling evangelist and her father-in-law has a church in another town. She refused medical treatment for two days after the bite even though her husband pleaded with her to go to hospital. [Cleveland, OH *Plain Dealer*, August 12, 1995, from Jim Zimmerman and Memphis, TN *Commercial Appeal*, August 11, 1995, from Bill Burnett]

• The Arizona Diamondbacks baseball team inspired a local resident to use rattlesnake skins to make baseballs. Under current state law, four diamondbacks a day may be removed by individuals. The species is not listed as endangered or threatened. Major League Baseball will not license the diamondback ball manufacturer, as products must be made for all teams before a license will be granted. The team spokesperson also said they had no intention of endorsing products made with real rattlesnakes. [*Arizona Republic*, July 30, 1995, from Tom Taylor]

• Rich Seigel, professor of ecology at Southeast Louisiana University, is studying massasauga rattlesnakes in a Missouri National Wildlife Refuge. He's tracking snakes in an effort to see if the reduction of their populations to isolated outposts will reduce genetic variability. If animals become too inbred, reproduction rate and survival of offspring may go down. He said, "The good news is that massasaugas here are doing well, particularly in light of the flood of 1993, which drastically hurt the food supply for the adults. But there's a lot we still don't know. . . . We need to ensure that it is protected now, before we lose more populations and get into a crisis. . . ."

• A 50-year-old woman was being treated for a snakebite on her left foot after being bitten while picking up a newspaper outside her home in Mount Dora, Florida. The woman said the snake had a brown and white pattern and a diamond-shaped head. [Leesburg, FL *Daily Commercial*, July 24, 1995, from Bill Burnett]

• The August/September 1995 *National Wildlife* has an article titled "The private lives of pit vipers" which is about the life and times of black-tailed rattlesnakes as studied by Harry Greene of the University of California–Berkeley. [Mark Witwer]

• A two-headed rattlesnake was found in Lawrence County, Alabama, by a man who had just shot its mother and was killing its siblings. He keeps it in an old aquarium and feeds it grasshoppers and other insects. Both heads are reportedly functional. They sleep in shifts with one head always remaining alert. [Montgomery, AL *Advertiser*, September 9, 1995, from Rick Dowling]

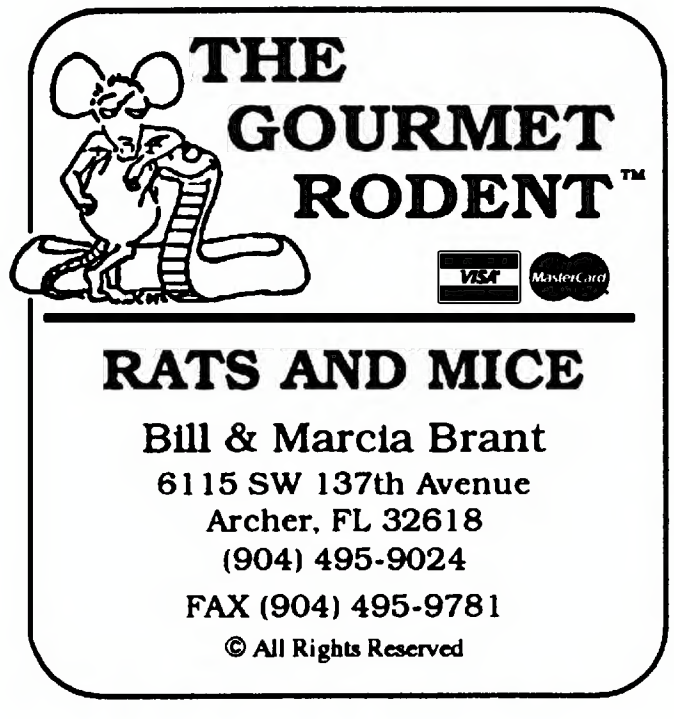
• A three-year-old white rattlesnake is on display at Audubon Zoo in New Orleans. It was caught in the wild by a local couple with a three-year-old daughter who visited it recently and were photographed smiling at it in its cage. [New Orleans *Times-Picayune*, July 8, 1995, from Ernie Liner]

• Seven snakes, including an amphiuma-eater, were stolen from the Louisiana Nature and Science Center from a children's display in December 30, 1993. "We want them all back," growled the curator. But they especially wanted Moe, the mud snake, because he could die if he didn't get an amphiuma a week. Police were stumped until a call came in; then they found a sack behind a public library. In the sack were five snakes and a note: "Here's your snakes. Two died. Sorry." In a "newsmakers revisited" story, we're told that Moe got fed and went back to work for six months and then was released back into wetlands surrounding the center. They've found him three or four times since. "The kids can look at him as he swims in his own environment," said the curator. The thief's not been caught. [New Orleans *Times-Picayune*, June 19, 1995]

Internet idea

For those interested in herpetology via internet open your url to http://www.uic.edu and go down to "World/search the world by . . . " and pick a thing called the "world wide worm." This lets you put in keywords and a limit of sites you are willing to get information about (fifty is a nice number). I haven't tried herps, snakes, frogs, etcetera having only gotten the program yesterday—but it's the kind of thing that looks like fun for a rainy day.

Thanks to everyone who contributed this month and to J. N. Stuart, Steve Ragsdale, Ernie Liner, "Caro," Marty Marcus, Bob Pierson, David Johnson, and Lori King-Nava. Send clippings with your name and the date/publication slug on *each one* to: Ellin Beltz, 1647 N. Clybourn Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60614-5507. Internet e-mail only (no downloading, please) at uebeltz@uxa.ecn.bgu.edu.



NEWTLINE

President **Marcia Rybak** began the August 30 meeting of the Chicago Herpetological Society in the A. Montgomery Ward Lecture Hall at the Field Museum with an announcement about the upcoming HerPETological weekend. Without further delay, she introduced Adoption Chairperson, **Char Haguewood**. Char explained that she had been out of town, so there was not much new to report on the area of adoption. As Symposium Chairperson, Char also reminded us that the eagerly awaited 11th Annual Midwest Herpetological Symposium was only 50 short days away. On Friday, October 20, 1995, the three-day event will begin with a captive-bred animal and dry goods sale, 6 – 10 P.M., in the Grand Ballroom of the Clarion Hotel O'Hare located at 6810 N. Mannheim Road in Rosemont, IL. This will be followed by a party in the Hospitality Suite at 10 P.M. Hopefully, party-goers will get a little sleep before the action-packed Saturday morning activities which will begin bright and early at 9 A.M. Scheduled to speak are **Sandra Barnett**, Senior Herpetologist of the National Aquarium in Baltimore, Maryland; **Dr. Stephen Barten**, Veterinarian at Vernon Hills Animal Hospital in Vernon Hills, IL; **Winston Card**, Senior Keeper at the Department of Herpetology at Dallas Zoo; **Dr. Michael Corn**, professor of Biology & Dean of Students from the College of Lake County in Grayslake, IL; **Dr. Carl H. Ernst**, professor of zoology from George Mason University in Fairfax, Va; our very own **Gary Fogel**, CHS Treasurer and longstanding member; and **Dr. Neil Ford**, professor of Biology at the University of Texas in Tyler, Texas. Later that evening at 6 P.M. in the Grand Ballroom, **Dr. Walter Auffenberg** of the Florida State Museum, Department of Natural Science in Gainsville, Florida, will speak on the Microgeography of the saw-scaled vipers of Pakistan and Egypt. This will be followed by a banquet and auction where "one-of-a-kind" and autographed items will be auctioned. On Sunday, to close out the eventful weekend, workshops will be held, along with a meeting of the National Herpetological Alliance, from 9:00 A.M. to Noon. Members were encouraged to help with registration and security. Special "perks" would be given to all volunteers.

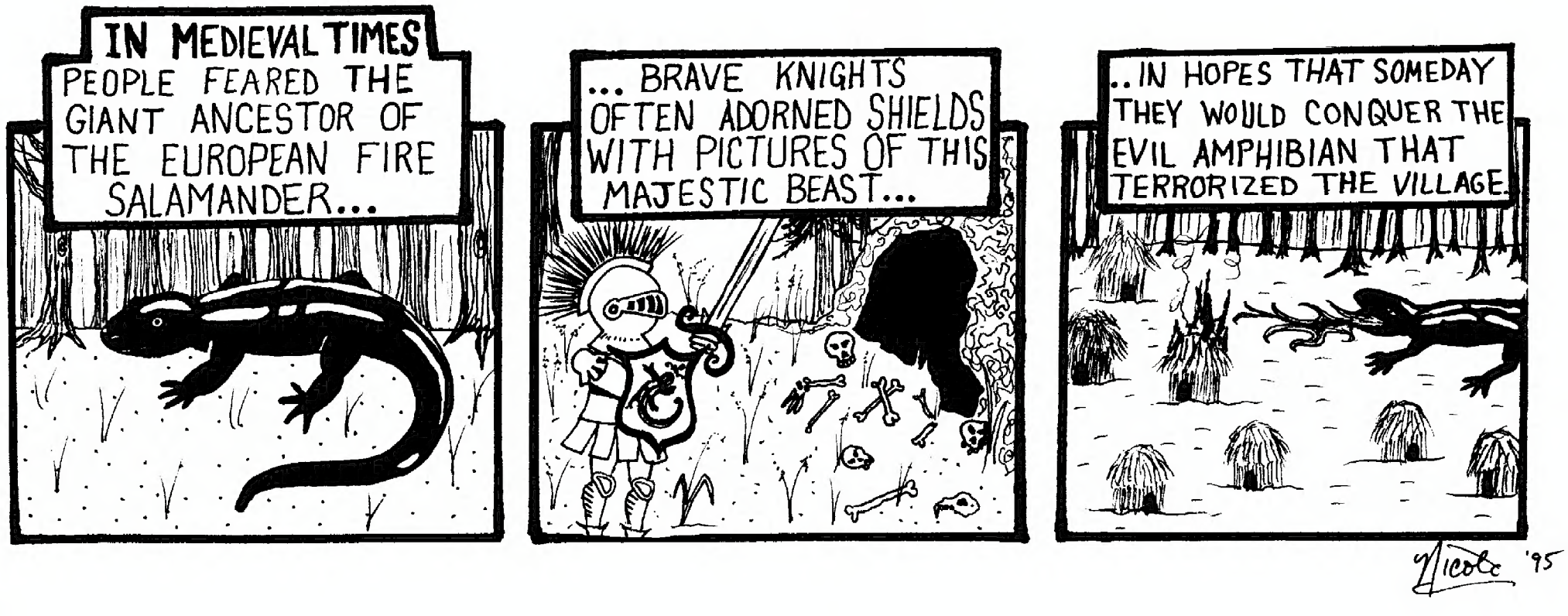
Turtle club representative **Chuck Keating** announced that their next meeting date was moved to September 17 due to a conflict with the Academy show and would be held from 1:00 to 3:30 P.M. at North Park Village Nature Center located at 5801 N. Pulaski in Chicago.

It hardly seemed time again for the election of the CHS Board of Directors. **Audrey Vanderlinden** and **Tony Rattin** headed up the nominating committee and asked that we see them to nominate a member for a position.

Merchandiser **Joan Moore** announced member discounts on books and showed us some adorable excellently priced "pop-up" books for children. (Although, I saw more than a few adults scooping them up for themselves.)

After a short break, **David Beamer** raffled off some donated goods and Vice-President **Chris Lechowicz** introduced the evening's guest speaker, **John McGrath**, a breeder of the European fire salamander (*Salamandra salamandra*). John acknowledged that while he has been a member of the CHS since the mid-80s, this was his first trip to Chicago. He wanted us to know that he was thrilled to speak before us and that the CHS is held in high regard both nationally and internationally. He considers the *Bulletin* to be superb.

John's love of salamanders came while he was in his 20s after a brief interest in kingsnakes, tricolors and corn snakes. Six years ago, John took an interest in the care and breeding of salamanders, "After discovering I didn't care for the rodent business," he says. After some research, he was surprised to find very little written information available on salamanders. He discovered their range is wide and includes Portugal, Asia, Russia, France, Italy, Spain and most of Europe. They are forest dwellers that prefer cooler temperatures and spend most of their life under rocks and logs. They can reach a growth of 8-12 inches and live as long as 25 years. Contrary to some opinions, John believes there are actually 8 to 15 different subspecies.


IN MEDIEVAL TIMES PEOPLE FEARED THE GIANT ANCESTOR OF THE EUROPEAN FIRE SALAMANDER...
... BRAVE KNIGHTS OFTEN ADORNED SHIELDS WITH PICTURES OF THIS MAJESTIC BEAST...
..IN HOPES THAT SOMEDAY THEY WOULD CONQUER THE EVIL AMPHIBIAN THAT TERRORIZED THE VILLAGE.
Nicole '95

He showed us colorful slides, some borrowed from his friend Bill Love, of a black salamander with yellow stripes (found in Germany) and a black salamander with yellow spots (found in Russia) and a Portuguese fire salamander with mostly black and very little striping. He feeds his salamanders a strict a diet of earthworms weekly, and advises against red wigglers believing they might contain parasites. Surprisingly, he has trained his salamanders to eat from forceps. However, in the past, he had that discovered several of his captive born babies had developed a lower jaw deformity. He added a commercial calcium supplement to their diet and that seems to have improved their condition.

The habitat requirements for adult salamanders are relatively easy to maintain. John separates his salamanders into pairs and places them into a plastic sweater box (with lids, of course), some water and pea gravel for a gradient. He prefers not to use leaves, soil or logs, "It tends to promote fungal infections." He also recommends checking the chlorine, proper pH balance and chloramines in the water.

Adult fire salamanders reach sexual maturity at about 3–5 years and John's efforts to breed them have proved quite successful, yet appear very unscientific. After a brief period of hibernation, John shuffles individuals from sweater box to sweater box at random until he believes they have mated. He identifies the sex of a salamander by sight. Males have a bulge at the base of the tail and are usually thinner than females. Mating consists of females on top, males on bottom and occurs at night. He determines whether a female is gravid by sight as well, "She gets very fat and plump." European fire salamanders bear their offspring live in the water and can produce 20-25 young. A graph created by John's friend, Bill Palmer, illustrated the number of babies born over a two-year period. The months of March and October suggested a higher yield.

Immediately after the salamanders are born, John must move them to separate containers due to their cannibalistic nature. He describes them as "eating machines" during this larvae stage. In the early days, John kept each salamander submerged in small plastic "soft butter" dish. He found that the larvae need to be fed every 2 days and that the water be changed every 4 days. John soon discovered that this requirement of constant water changes for 150 baby salamanders was quite tedious and time consuming. With the help of his father, John devised a trough-like flushing system. The trough was built 5-10 feet long from PVC guttering and adapters. The canal was separated into individual housing units for the larvae. With the flick of a switch, water could emptied and new water added simultaneously in only 15 minutes. (I was thinking it would be much easier just to aerate the water.)

He showed us slides of the different growth stages. A salamander will "transform" in approximately 2-3 months into the "juvenile stage." He knows the larvae are about to transform when they shed. At this time, he stops feeding them and moves them into a gradiented container with some pea gravel and water. Following the transformation, it is difficult, yet critical, to get them to feed again, John explained.

Throughout this breeding process, John has produced 700 baby fire salamanders and always hopes for an albino or a strange color phase. He showed us a photo of a copper and black salamander he calls, "the Halloween phase" and "The Golden Child," a yellow salamander with red gills that was transparent when born, yet has never transformed. As a professional breeder of fire salamanders, John explained that different color morphs bring lots of money. He noted that captive breeding of European fire salamanders will be increasingly important since European export has decreased leaving Russia as the only source for new imports.

With regard to toxic glands, John acknowledged that these salamanders can actually aim and squirt toxins which have been known to cause temporary blindness. He admitted feeling a burning sensation after accidently rubbing his eyes after cleaning an enclosure. He had also heard rumors that, in Europe, a dog had died after eating a fire salamander. He suggested that owners always wash their hands before and after handling a fire salamander. He also welcomed any information on fire salamanders, no matter how trivial, and boasted, "My goal is to become the Bob Applegate of salamanders." Along with his pursuits as a breeder of European fire salamanders and in case you're in the area, John also serves as president of the Columbia Herpetological Society in Columbia, Missouri (Would that be a CHS also?), where meetings are held at the University of Missouri's building for the study of veterinary medicine.

We stay in touch, so you stay in touch.

NEWT

Eye of Newt: Special Report

On Saturday and Sunday, September 23–24, 1995, the Chicago Academy of Sciences once again hosted the annual HerPETological Weekend. This year the event was held at the CAS Nature Museum, their temporary home on the third floor of the North Pier Mall, at 435 E. Illinois Street. The Academy left its old space on Clark Street earlier this year when the Chicago Park District turned the building over to the Lincoln Park Zoological Society. For the next three years, while their new building is being constructed, the Academy will be located in North Pier. At first, I thought this move would be catastrophic; however the Academy is doing quite well, maybe even better than before. Not only is this building a "hot spot" for tourists, it was a baby-sitter's dream. I envisioned school buses lining up on the street for field trips to this third floor with thousands of children scurrying around the arcade, "Mini City" miniature golf, "Battletech," "Virtuality/Cyberia" and a Zweifel's mini-mechanized circus exhibit, to name just a few. Downstairs, in front of an ice cream shop, a clown was making balloon animals for the kids. Forget the kids, I was in heaven.

I was greeted enthusiastically by Academy volunteers wearing brown field vests and nametags. The Nature Museum was filled with state-of-the-art interactive displays and "hands-on" exhibits. As I approached, I could hear **Ron Humbert's** voice emanating from his display of corn snakes. He was

entirely engulfed by an enormous crowd of children and adults. He was letting them hold the snakes. He was handing them out as fast as he was getting them back. On the table, was a container of newly-hatched corn snakes and in another container were eggs actually hatching as the crowd looked on. Even more "oooohs & aaaaahs" were heard and one little girl yanked on my arm and remarked, "Look, I can see his head!"

When I entered, an Academy volunteer stamped my hand with a green snake. Other volunteers led me to the first exhibit, "Make Your Own River." This waist-high exhibit allowed children to pump water and shovel sand and rocks for hours. And they did.

Nearby, a line was forming as **Ben Entwisle, Jenny Vollman** and **Ralf Ganswindt** were snapping away Polaroids for souvenir poses with Jenny's large boa.

CHS members and their animals were not confined to one area, but instead were distributed throughout the entire museum. As I maneuvered my way past the Nature Museum exhibits, I found 13-year-old **Evan Banks** behind a table with his palm gecko and golden gecko. Against a far wall, **Dottie Humbert** took her turn at watching the book store while merchandiser, **Joan Moore** sat in her "Snaketarium" with Pythagoras, her 20-year-old female Burmese python from Southeast Asia. The next table featured **Lisa Davis** with her rather large, extremely colorful veiled chameleon. Moms **Kathleen Delaney** and **Harriett Witterg** watched over their sons' Argentine boa, boa constrictor, Schneider's skink and ball python. **Gary Fogel** sat next to them with his cage of armadillo and girdle-tailed lizards while **Marcia Rybak** passed out membership brochures and asked visitors to sign our mailing list. **Mike Dloogatch** exhibited his red milksnake and scarlet kingsnake, in between his turns at manning the book store; and **Mike Scott** watched over his water snakes (brown, banded, northern diamondback and salt marsh). **Bob Bavirsha** let kids pet his giant snapping turtle. **Lori King's** friend **Iggy**, answered questions about her 3-year-old male iguana, "Pablo Picasso." **Steven Schoenfeld's** mom watched over his three-toed box turtle, African hingeback tortoise and forest hinge-backed tortoise while Steven sat in the tortoise pen which was filled with **Steve Spitzer's** African leopard tortoise, Marcia Rybak's spurred tortoise and **David Wright's** red-footed tortoise. David was at the other end of the exhibit displaying his water monitor lizard and snapping turtle. The tortoises shared the pen with about 10 children who had made this their giant sandbox. **Eleanor Farrell** brought an African hinge-back tortoise to display as well. Nine-year-old **Bobby Magala** showed me his morphed toad as thirteen-year-old **Matt O'Conner** pointed out his gray treefrog that he had rescued from some cruel Boy Scouts, while keeping an eye on his tiger salamander, green tiger frogs, barking treefrogs and gray treefrogs. His armadillo lizard had the cutest habitat, complete with a live cactus. **Brian Jones** walked around with his male 6-year-old iguana who was a little stressed out and did not want to be handled. Last, but certainly not least, **Jim Nesci** brought his North American alligator, always a favorite of the event.

As always, display cards were neatly printed with animal names and information and each exhibitor wore a CHS badge. New this year, near several of the exhibits, were containers filled with small packages of trout chow and calcium supplements. The packages bore a CHS label and were being given out as free samples.

There were several new features to the exhibition this year, such as a reduction in the amount of space and shorter hours. But the event was spectacular as usual, and received an amazing amount of media coverage, even appearing on an ABC syndicated newscast. Exhibitors were delighted to find that parking was excellent and they were given free vouchers for the day. Exhibitors were also treated to a tasty and filling lunch at A-1 Original, a "Tex-Mex" restaurant in North Pier. Special thanks to Coordinator Kara Tourville and the staff of the Academy for all their efforts. This event just keeps getting bigger and better every year.

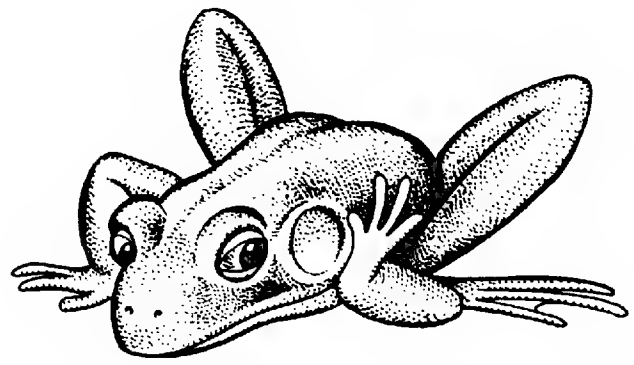
CHS Adoption Service

The CHS adoption service has an abundance of herps that need new homes. Common animals found on the service are green iguanas, caimans, red ears and box turtles, and common species of pythons and boas. Less common animals are placed on the service from time to time. Frequently the service receives calls from distressed owners or "finders" of animals that cannot care for the animals correctly. If you're interested in adopting one of these animals as a pet, and can care for it properly, please contact Char Haguewood at 708/209-1426, weekdays 7-9pm CST.

Bull. Chicago Herp. Soc. 30(10):219-220, 1995

The Tympanum

In April 1994 the CHS Board of Directors voted member Jessica Jakubanis a $50 subsidy to help with her expenses on a Girl Scout trip to northern California. In return, Jessica was to survey the herps of the area and prepare a report for publication in the Bulletin. *This report appears below.*



Journal and Research Done in the Sierras

Saturday, July 30, 1994

I flew into Fresno and began my trek into the High Sierras. I acquainted myself with my fellow Girl Scouts during the journey to the campgrounds. After we arrived and got settled, I informed everyone that I would be researching the various types of wildlife in the vicinity, with a major interest in herptiles, and requested their help to which they gladly agreed. I was able to get an idea of my surroundings and the terrain I would be dealing with as well as my location in the Sierras. I was located in Dinkey Creek, California, about 15 miles from Shaver Lake, which was primarily an evergreen forest in the mountains with rocky and sandy terrain. Unfortunately, any creatures present remained elusive on the first day, and we retired, planning our strategies for tomorrow.

Sunday, July 31, 1994

I awoke around 7:00 A.M. and was amazed to find that the temperature of our cabin had fallen to 31° Fahrenheit overnight. I found it interesting that any cold-blooded animal would be capable of withstanding daily temperature changes of over 70°F each day. (Daytime readings could and did reach over 110°F on certain days.) During our many chores and camping/riding lessons I kept a watchful eye on rocks, in the creek, in the brush, and in any other possible habitat that might conceal a herp. While changing the horses' water, I discovered a nest of baby rats (too young to identify the species) which would obviously be an available food source for hungry herps. If the rat pups were there, could reptiles be far away?

The rest of the day dragged on with little success in my quest for the cold-blooded creatures. Finally, as I was finishing up my duty of sweeping out the latrines, I observed some movement on the wall behind a stall. There were plenty of large arthropods including spiders, centipedes, and various insects, so I doubted I would chance upon such a convenient discovery. I couldn't pass up the opportunity to observe wildlife, regardless of the persuasion, so I proceeded to do so. . . EUREKA!!! My prayers had been answered. There, clinging to the damp walls of the shower stall, was an authentic Pacific treefrog! It was a pale shade of green with the characteristic dark stripe through the eyes and large toe pads. I identified it as a female for the lack of a gray throat or any evidence of a vocal sac. I found it interesting that it appeared to live in the artificial environment of the latrine as opposed to the shrubs, trees, and grass that it is commonly found in. The food supply was readily available, as was the essential moisture, so it survived in ultimately ideal conditions, anyway. This was a modest discovery in view of all my searching, but I wouldn't be deterred. My previous research stated that many other herps called the Sierras their home, and I wouldn't rest until I found them.

Monday, August 1, 1994

I woke up again to the bitter cold, expecting an unproductive day. I dragged myself down to the fire circle since it was my turn to cook breakfast. After everyone was settled and started to eat, I climbed my way up a steep rock to have my breakfast. Halfway up the cliff I noticed something zip past my face. I alerted my nearest friends of the perpetrator, and before I knew it, the entire group of 15 was after it. We spied about three lizards total before we were able to capture one. Its body was still cold despite the fact that it had been sunbathing for a while this morning, and that made it much easier to catch. I identified the 5½-inch lizard to be a female northern sagebrush lizard due to the pinkish coloring on the sides, the brownish-gray coloration, and the stripe pattern. We were lucky to discover that the sandy boulders around our fire circle is home to a colony of northern sagebrushes.

The rest of the day was uneventful in the way of new herp discoveries, but various parties at camp claimed to have seen a cougar prowling the grounds. I would really have enjoyed observing such a formidable creature and a predator of my precious herps.

Thursday, August 4, 1994

A few days had passed without any more new discoveries. I would spend the majority of my free time around the sandy rock bases observing the shy northern sagebrushes. I saw several which I took to be hatchlings due to their size (3–4 inches). I was also able to view one pursuing its prey—an ant. By my estimation, there were about 20+ living in this small area, and our presence didn't seem to disturb them too much as long as they were not pestered or chased.

Thursday, we ventured high into the mountains on horseback, and I kept my eyes open for any sign of wildlife. We wound up near Bald Mountain which had similar terrain to what we had at camp, but the evening temperatures would be even cooler. I didn't see any actual animals, but I did come across several mammal burrows that would be perfect shelters for large snakes, as well as "swish marks" in the sand that were obviously caused by a snake slithering along. By the time we returned to camp, we were so drained that the thought of pursuing another herp was the last thing on our minds. It was quite a shock to me when the scouts in charge of cleaning the outhouses came running to me with a stash of some sort in a facial tissue. They proudly explained how they had caught the creature around the outhouse and handed it to me. I gently opened up the softly-folded tissue and was pleased to discover an extremely small Pacific treefrog. It was less than an inch in

length and was obviously male because it sang its remorse at being caught by inflating its throat. I returned it to its place of origin, thrilled to have found both a male and a female of these oft-heard singers of the night.

Friday, August 5, 1994

We were busily mucking the horse stalls Friday morning when one of the scouts alerted me that she had seen a snake around her horse's stall. One of the local counselors found this intriguing and came along to see, telling me that she bet it would be a boa because they were common in those parts. I eagerly hastened my way toward the specified location, with hopes of observing a Californian snake. I can truly say I wasn't disappointed. There, on the sandy turf, was a rather small serpent. I had already donned my gloves, so I gently reached down and captured the obviously nonpoisonous snake. It was about a foot in length, with a stubby-appearing tail. Its scales were a very dark brown. I could instantly tell that our catch was an authentic Californian rubber boa! I was beginning to wonder if I'd ever come across a snake, and this waned away any doubts and was quite encouraging. We observed the boa for a while as it wrapped itself around my arm (it seemed just as curious about us as we were about it), and then we returned it to its rightful freedom.

Friday, August 12, 1994

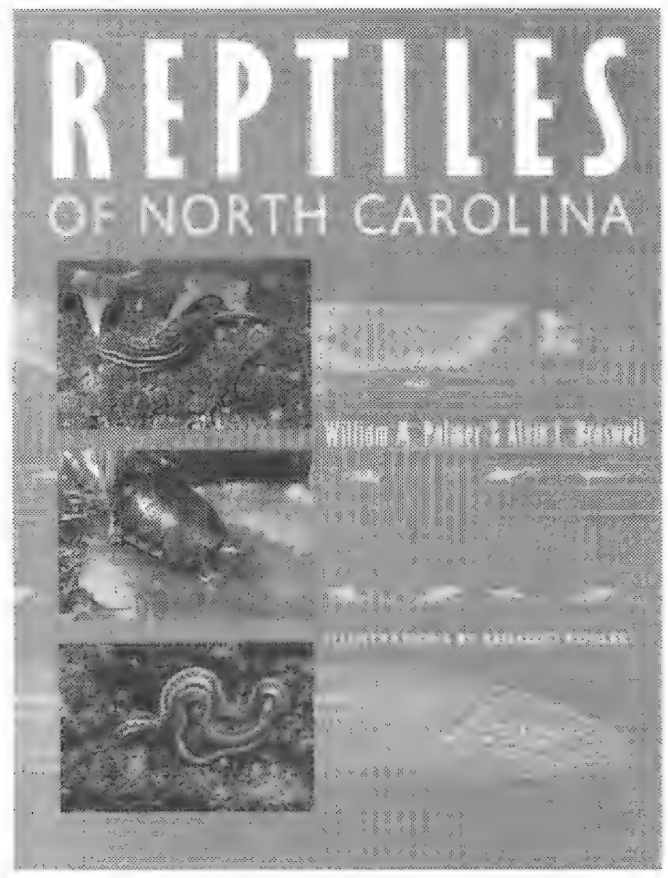
Well, I was nearing the end of my stay in the Sierras of California. I had managed to see several more Pacific treefrogs, another boa, and many, many northern sagebrush lizards (one of which was at an altitude of 2000–3000 feet above Dinkey Creek). Although my search wasn't in vain, I had hoped to accomplish more. I was lucky to have observed anything, and, little did I realize, I was not through yet. . . .

I was taking my last day at camp easy, going "creek-walking" with some of my friends, when I discovered a remote pond, probably overflow from a time when the creek did just that. Seeing the plentiful overgrowth and vital condition of the pond, I couldn't resist the chance to explore and see what I might find. After quite a bit of difficult searching, I spied a tiny, green frog perched silently on a weed. It looked undeniably similar to a bullfrog. The odd thing was that it was less than a half an inch long! I have since consulted numerous field guides in hopes of finding out what this true frog was. I have yet to have any success. I left camp with a new goal and a feeling of utter perplexity. The discovery of the identity of the unusual amphibian would be my next objective.

Jessica Jakubanis, 7981 W. Argyle, Norridge IL 60656.

Reptile Lovers

Books for



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For sale: rodents and reptiles, Dallas–Ft. Worth Metroplex. J.R.'s Cowtown Critters, 1002 Harrison Avenue, Arlington TX 76011, (817) 460-RATS.

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For sale: turtle and tortoise chow, excellent food—1 lb, $5; 3 lbs, $10; 5 lbs, $15 (postage paid). Send cash, check or money order to Herp's Delight, Dept. C, 20 Ablett Avenue, Whitesboro NY 13492.

For sale: commercial turtle pellets (40–56% protein; fish meal, blood meal, feather meal based). Fed to thousands of turtles grown on commercial farms in the South for meat and pets. A complete, balanced diet for maximum growth, will not cause shell deformities, $20 for 10 pounds postpaid. Send money order to: Terry Dillon, 30012 Hubert Jenkins Road, Bogalusa LA 70427-6952.

For sale: reptile cage disinfectant and deodorant. Kills many types of infectious disease detrimental to herps. $3.91 for 2 oz (makes 1 gallon). Wholesale and quantity prices available. Make checks payable to Bengal Pets, Inc., 1088 Chapman Road, Jesup GA 31545, (912) 530-6384.

For sale: Tired of getting bitten while collecting, feeding or maneuvering animals? Try my Whitney tongs—10% discount to herp society members—2′, $65 each; 2½′, $66 each; 3′, $67 each; 3½′, $68 each; 4′, $69 each, 5′, $85 each; 6′, $90 each. Will ship U.P.S. extra. Send money order or cashier's check to Don Lunsford, 5661 Walkerton Drive, Cincinnati OH 45238.

For sale: used mouse-breeding racks, 36 trays per rack, complete with water bottles, trays and fresh breeding stock, $360 per rack. Very space efficient (17″ × 55″ × 80″h). Discounts available on multiple racks. MC/VISA accepted. The Gourmet Rodent, (904) 495-9024.

For sale: 1995 HERPETOLOGICAL DIRECTORY. Valuable information source containing private and commercial breeders, wholesalers, foreign exporters, U.S. and foreign herp societies, food sources, supplies, publications, more. . . . $15. MC/Visa. Great Valley Serpentarium, 2379 Maggio Circle, Unit C, Lodi CA 95240, (209) 369-7737.

For sale: NOW AVAILABLE! *Exotic Pets: A Veterinary Guide for Owners* by Shawn Messonnier, D.V.M. Written in easy-to-understand language by the editor-in-chief of "**Exotic Pet Practice,**" *Exotic Pets* gives accurate information for pet owners on the feeding, diets, care, housing, and common medical problems of pet reptiles, rodents, birds, rabbitts and ferrets. Inepensively priced, *Exotic Pets: A Veterinary Guide for owners* will quickly become your one reference book for the information you need to properly care for these special pets. Price—$8.95 + $2.50 s&h (Texas residents add 8.25% state tax). Send check to: *Exotic Pets*, Paws and Claws, 2145 W. Park, Plano TX 75075.

For sale: *REPTILES* MAGAZINE INDEX. Locate every reference in *Reptiles* Magazine from the beginning. Every species mentioned, where the photos are. English and Latin names. Updated monthly. Single issue $5, full-year subscription (4 issues, quarterly) $18. Send check or money order to Reptile Index, 7354 Cardigan Circle, Atlanta GA 30328, (404) 396-4414.

For sale: **books**. *Rattlesnakes* (Klauber, 1st ed., 2 vols.), $295; *Cold-blooded Australians* (Schmida), $85; *Biology and Evolution of Australian Lizards* (Greer), $75; *Herpetology of Hispaniola* (Cochran), $65; *Living Amphibians of the World* (Cochran), $45; *South American Herpetofauna, Its Origin, Dispersal and Evolution* (Duellman), $45; *An Annotated Checklist and Key to the Amphibia of Mexico*, $25, *the Snakes of Mexico*, $35, *the Reptiles of Mexico Exclusive of the Snakes*, $35 (all three by Smith and Taylor, softbound); *The Tailed Amphibians of Europe* (Steward), $35; *Introduction to Herpetology* (Goin and Goin), $25; *Snakes of the World* (Ditmars), $14; *Amphibians of Canada* (Froom, softbound), $8. All books in good to new condition. Shipping extra. Jim McDougal, 23 Rockhill Road, Rocky Point NY 11778, (516) 744-2498.

For sale: *A Colored Atlas of Some Vertebrates from Ceylon. Vol. 3. Serpentoid Reptilia* by P. E. P. Deraniyagala, 1955, 121 pp., 37 figs., 7 b&w plates, 14 color plates, softcover, 1987 reprint, $50 or exchange for snake literature. V. Wallach, 4 Potter Park, Cambridge MA 02138, (617) 868-0436.

For sale: large selection of captive born reptiles and amphibians, books and supplies. Send S.A.S. business-size envelope for complimentary price list or $5 for a 1-year subscription (bi-monthly), to Twin Cities Reptiles, 540 Winnetka Avenue North, Golden Valley MN 55427, (612) 593-0298.

For sale: large wooden reptile cage, never used, sliding glass doors, vented, 6′l × 30″w × 20″h, $200. Marc, (708) 597-6172.

For sale: reptile cage, 3′L × 2′W × 2′H, wood with sliding glass door, like-new stand, $90; three stacking cages, 36″ × 18″ × 18″, wood with front sliding glass doors and stand, like new, $150; 2′ Neodesha cage, with tempered glass, new, $30. (708) 361-5835.

For sale: moving—must sell. Museum quality, custom-built terrarium, 83″h × 40″l × 25″w, complete with very friendly, 4½′ iguana. Includes two Vita-lites, one ZooMed heating pad, timers, heat lamps etc. Must see to appreciate. Complete set-up, $500. John, (708) 263-7897, leave message.

For sale: captive-bred Dumeril's monitors, *Varanus dumerilii*, $330 (10% discount to herp society members, $297). Mike, (770) 987-3933. [GA]

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For sale: What are vittikins? Vittikins are bearded dragon (*Pogona vitticeps*) × Rankin's dragon (*P. brevis*) hybrids. All the personality, charm and hardiness of bearded dragons at half the size. Just $75 each. Also c.b. water dragons, $20; c.b. leopard geckos, $20; c.b. veiled chameleons (*Chameleo calyptratus*), $55 each. Marcia Rybak, (708) 735-8205.

For sale: European zoo surplus! four female sungazers (w/ papers); four c.b. *Egernia major*; six *Egernia cunninghami*; *Ctenosaura pectinata*; *C. hemilopha conspicuosa*; bearded dragons, $75; veiled chameleons, $65; and other captive born lizards. Crickets, $15/1000 postpaid. Call or write for our NEW free price list. Ray's Reptiles. P.O. Box 4732, Lincoln NE 68504-0473, call or fax Mon. – Sat., (402) 477-1975, eves. are best.

For sale: male *Varanus storri* (Australian dwarf spiny-tail monitor), 7 years old, captive hatched (Europe), perfect specimen, $1100; male Burmese python, 9–10′, nice coloration, c.h., has been a pet, but should be an ideal breeder, $160. Galvanized metal heat pads, ideal substrate heaters for herps (see description in *Vivarium*, Vol. 4, No. 6, heating device article), small (9 × 17″), $22, large (13 × 21″), $24, plus $4 shipping for first pad, $1 each additional pad. The Herp House, 1750 Haines Road, Orwell OH 44076, (216) 685-4615 phone or (216) 685-4572 fax.

For sale: one personable 6-month-old male bearded dragon (great for a family pet), $100; proven breeding pair of African fat-tailed geckos, $175. All animals are fed high quality diets. C. L. Geiger, (312) 362-0903.

For sale: one male and one female Cuban rock iguanas, young adults (~5 years), $1495/pair; female rhinoceros iguana, c.b. '95, $650; one male and two female chuckwallas (*Sauromalus obesus*), $125/trio; two c.b. Angel Island chuckwallas (*Sauromalus hispidus*), $195 each. Randall Gray, (817) 613-1242, 6 – 9 P.M. Central Time. [TX]

For sale: rhinoceros iguanas; Cuban iguanas; green iguanas; *Geochelone sulcata*; *G. elephantopus* (Florida sales only). D. J. or Sam, (305) 680-8492. [FL]

For sale: turtles. For free price list send SASE to the people who breed more types of turtles than anyone else. Turtle Breeders, 27182 Santa Fe, Chowchilla CA 93610.

For sale: *Lampropeltis triangulum syspila*—from Missouri stock with zoo papers—very nice red and white, $90 each; Argentine rainbow boas, c.b. '95, $200 each; Nassau boas (*Epicrates s. strigilatus*), c.b. '95, inquire. Doug, P.O. Box 384, Benicia CA 94510, (707) 745-5583.

For sale: one male and one female green tree pythons, c.b. adults, proven breeders, $5000/pair; Chinese beauty snakes—one long-term wild-caught albino male, two c.b. normal females, one c.b. '95 hetero for albino male, $2500 for the group; Stuart's milksnakes, bright Costa Rican animals; one male and one female adult blonde trans-Pecos rat snakes, $500/pair; two male and two female c.b. '94 diamond python / carpet python cross, $900/pair. Stan or Andrea Grumbeck, (817) 561-1400.

For sale: three male and two female Kenyan sand boas, c.b. 9/95, hetero for albinism, from bright orange male (Mark Bell stock) and bright orange wild-caught female (this is an inexpensive way to breed for rare and expensive albino Kenyans), $850/pair (lone male, $325); one male and one female Tarahumara mountain kings (*Lampropeltis pyromelana knoblochi*), male c.b. '95, female c.b. '94, both Steve Osborne bloodline and eating mice; one male patternless green Burmese, c.b. '95, very nice, $175; one male and one female eastern blue-tongue skinks (*Tiliqua s. scincoides*), c.b. '95, very pretty, growing fast, $275/pair. (619) 265-7557. [southern CA]

For sale: three female diamond pythons (*Morelia s. spilotes*), c.h. 5/95, well-started juveniles (22–24″) from beautiful parents; two male and two female rough knobtail geckos (*Nephrurus asper*), c.h. '93, beautiful orange-phase adult breeders; six rough knobtail geckos, c.h. '95 from above adults. Other c.b. offspring expected in the near future include *Sanzinia*, black-headed pythons, womas, diamonds, jungle carpets, knobtail geckos (*Nephrurus asper* and *N. laevis*) and a few surprises for 1996! Get on the list early (no deposit required) for any of the above captive babies, since some are produced in limited quantities and will sell out fast. Casey Lazik, P.O. Box 55023, Shoreline WA 98155, (206) 368-2919 phone and fax.

For sale: male ball python, high yellow, extremely nice, $100; one male and one female trans-Pecos rat snakes, hetero for blonde, one is weird grey color, other has normal pigmentation, $200/pair; juvenile black rough-necked monitor, doing great, $125. Paul Edwards, (402) 453-6831.

For sale: c.b. '95 Brazilian rainbow boas from exceptional orange/red adults, $225. Also available, c.b. '94–'95 *annulata*, *pyromelana*, *agalma*, *brooksi* and *nigritus*. Kit Sawyer, 86 Locust Avenue, Millburn NJ 07041, (201) 564-6386.

For sale: two female *pick of the litter* "ultra-golden" Colombian boas, $175 each; one c.b. '89 male and one c.b. '91 female "golden" Colombian boas (these are the exceptional, totally unrelated "golden" Colombians that produced my "ultra-golden" babies, proven and ready to breed again this winter), inquire; one c.b. '93 male Brazilian rainbow boa, $300; one male and two female c.h. '95 *pick of the litter* northern pines (one female "high-contrast" normal, the other pair amelanistic), all three totally unrelated, will make great breeding group, $250/trio; two male double-hetero (amelanism and anerythrism) bull snakes, $275 each; one female hetero for amelanism bull snake, $50; one c.h. '93 female Sonoran desert kingsnake, $60; one c.h. '93 female "Miami phase" corn snake, $40. All animals are PERFECT with NO problems. Steven E. Snow, (815) 624-8204. [Rockton IL]

For sale: 19 c.b. Argentine boas (*occidentalis*) from unrelated black and silver adults, must sell quickly, $225–250. Jay, 160 River Plantation Road, Crawfordville FL 32327, (904) 925-6949.

For sale: two male and three female Peruvian redtail boas, all c.b. '93, one pair from Iquitos stock, unrelated, both 3½–4′, one male and two females from Puculpa stock, unrelated, approx. 3–3½′. All are high contrast, outstanding specimens, good investment potential. Asking $2300 for the group. Bart Bruno, (203) 773-9257.

For sale: captive-bred snakes. Blood pythons, Burmese pythons, Kenyan sand boas, black rat snakes, bull snakes. Will deliver in Chicago metro area or ship from O'Hare Airport. Joan Moore, (312) 528-4631.

For sale: captive bred and born. Argentine boas, $250; Hog Island boas, $400; Colombian boas, $100; Brazilian rainbow boas, $250; jungle carpet pythons, $400; spotted pythons, $125; Borneo short-tail pythons, $125; two male white-lip pythons, $125 each; two male Veracruz milksnakes (*Lampropeltis triangulum polyzona*), $175 each; Louisiana pine snakes, $300; Everglades rat snakes (Marcia Lincoln "super glades"), $35; corn snakes—Okeetee, amelanistic and snow, $35, ghost corns, $50. Terry L. Vandeventer, Arco Iris Herpetoculture, (601) 924-1409 phone or (601) 924-9766 fax. [MS]

For sale: expected '95—deposits accepted. Pythons—blackheads, womas, green trees, diamonds, jungle carpets, rings, bloods (red and black) and Children's. Boas—emeralds, Hog Islands, Madagascan tree (*Sanzinia*), Bolivian redtails, Argentines, Brazilian rainbows, Dumeril's and sand boas. Tortoises—Aldabras (3″–24″), Hermann's, marginateds, redfoots, leopards and others. For price list send a one-time fee of $3, which includes a '95 list (and *all* future lists) and color photos. Dick Goergen, P.O. Box 225, Alden NY 14001, (716) 681-4518.

Offer: An expense-paid sabbatical with reptiles, in Washington, D.C. For three months, summer 1996, live in a home in an upscale suburb and care for a pancake tortoise and two reticulated pythons. Call Kathy, (202) 857-3265, to apply.

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Software: **TRACS™**—Total Reptile and Amphibian Control System. The most complete database and reporting solution for automating your breeding records. Perfect for hobbyists, commercial breeders and institutions. Only $129 plus $5 shipping & handling ($10 outside U.S). Demo disks available for $10 (cost may be applied toward purchase price). IBM PCs and compatibles. For more information or ordering contact Marcia Rybak at Leapin' Lizards, 736 N. Western Avenue, #315, Lake Forest IL 60045, (708) 735-8205 phone or (708) 735-8206 fax.

Tours: Limited bookings available for guided tours of herpetological collection sites in Nevada. Call or fax (702) 471-0240 for reservations. For a brochure send SASE to: CRC, P.O. Box 0731, Las Vegas NV 89125-0731.

Tours: Five-day South Carolina herp and fossil tours, April–November 1995. Mini expeditions in search of 30-million-year-old turtles and crocodilians; living reptile hunts (vipers, king and rat snakes, turtles, anoles, broadhead and five-lined skinks, treefrogs and other amphibians), exotic reptile shopping and camping in a black water swamp forest. Finest Charleston hotels beginning and end of each tour. Twelve people per tour. Family plans available. $489. For reservations call Steve Faust, (800) 894-TOUR.

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Wanted: Madagascan tree boas (*Sanzinia*), c.b. '95 or older. Doug, P.O. Box 384, Benicia CA 94510, (707) 745-5583.

Wanted: subadult or adult leopard tortoises (*Geochelone pardalis babcocki*), long-term captives only—no South African subspecies. Mark G. Domka. (612) 822-7996. [MN]

Wanted: *Uromastyx acanthinurus*. (817) 613-1242 (6 – 9 P.M. Central Time). [TX]

Wanted: dealers of captive-bred reptiles for the South Florida Reptile Shows, 11/11/95, Red Carpet Inn, Ft. Lauderdale FL, (305) 987-1501 phone/fax.

Wanted: styrofoam boxes, any size or shape so long as they're not flimsy, preferably with cardboard liners, willing to pay from $2 to $5. Bring to CHS meetings. Scott J. Michaels, D.V.M, Serpent City, (815) 363-0290.

Line ads in this publication are run free for CHS members — $2 per line for nonmembers. Any ad may be refused at the discretion of the Editor. Submit ads to: Michael Dloogatch, 6048 N. Lawndale Avenue, Chicago IL 60659, (312) 588-0728 evening telephone or (312) 782-2868 fax.

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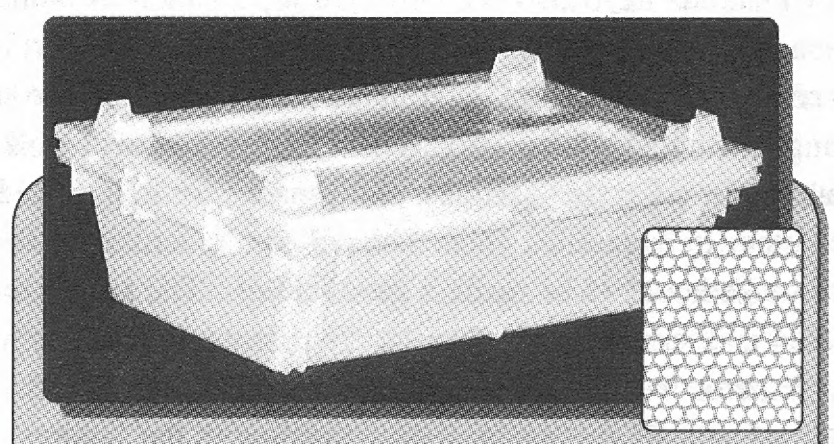

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Unofficial Minutes of the CHS Board Meeting, September 15, 1995

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 P.M. Board members Brian Jones, Mike Ross, Marcia Rybak and Steve Vick were absent.

Officers' Reports:

The Minutes of the August board meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer's Report was read and accepted. Membership: There are 10 organizations with which we have exchanged memberships and from which we have received no publications this year. They are: Association of Reptile and Amphibian Veterinarians); Great Lakes Herp Society; Lehigh Valley Herp Society; New Mexico Herp Society; Oklahoma Herp Society; Reptile Defense Fund; Tri-State Herp Society; Oregon Herp Society; Varanix Newsletter; and Trans-Wildlife Review. Membership Secretary John Driscoll will follow up with these organizations; the CHS will stop sending *Bulletins* if no exchange publications are forthcoming.

Committee Reports:

Legislative: The January 1996 meeting will feature speakers from the Illinois Department of Conservation and U.S. Fish & Wildlife. The topic will be laws and permit requirements regarding endangered animals. The speakers will be available to answer questions.

Shows: The Springbrook Nature Center Show was a big hit. The Center has asked the CHS to recommend a list of herps with which the Center should stock its pond in the spring.

Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee will announce its slate of candidates at the September general meeting. Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

Old Business:

Answering Machine: The Corresponding Secretary position (currently held by Brian Jones) needs help fielding 15-20 telephone calls a day. Also, all general mail goes to the Corresponding Secretary. Perhaps members-at-large can assist with this task.

Trailer: Ron and Dotty Humbert brought photographs of a used trailer, available for sale. A 4 × 6′ trailer is 4′ high and has interior measurements of 68½ × 43½″. It has a 1500-lb. capacity. We can purchase it used for $1,000 or new for $1,200. A 5 × 8′ trailer has the same interior dimensions as the 4 × 6′ except that it's 98″ deep, has a 1700-lb. capacity, and comes with a heavy suspension and axle. We can purchase it used at $1,300 or new at $1,600. Jill Horwich moved and Jack Schoenfelder seconded that Ron Humbert rent the trailer for the Chicago Academy of Sciences show at which time we can determine whether or not to purchase the trailer. The motion passed unanimously. Brian Jones will provide Ron Humbert with the exact measurement of his iguana tree.

Russian tortoises: As of August 30 Ron Humbert has been informed that the Russian tortoises will be shipped to California from where they will be shipped to their various destinations in allotments. The shipping fee is $2 per tortoise. Ron Humbert will collect the fee from the new owners. Jill Horwich moved and Gary Fogel seconded that Ron Humbert be advanced $400 for shipping and handling charges for the tortoises. After collecting the $2 fee from each new tortoise owner, Ron Humbert will reimburse the Society. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

IL DOA: Jim Nesci met with Dr. David Bromwell, the head veterinarian at the Illinois Department of Agriculture in Springfield. They discussed the CHS and the work it does, especially regarding education in the field of herpetology. Jim Nesci urged Dr. Bromwell not to condemn the CHS or the entire herpetology community based on the irresponsible actions of a few people. He reported that Dr. Bromwell was favorably impressed with the CHS, and was very forthcoming. Dr. Bromwell has asked the CHS to recommend a good basic resource text regarding herpetology. Mike Dloogatch will call Dr. Bromwell to discuss what type of book he has in mind, and the CHS will send the appropriate book to Dr. Bromwell as a gift.

Grants: Tony Rattin reported that Mardel Laboratories, which makes fish-keeping/aquaculture products, would like to underwrite a $500 grant through the CHS for a project involving herpetoculture. Tony Rattin will obtain more information prior to the October board meeting.

Yellow Pages: Marcia Rybak asked Mike Dloogatch to report in her absence that a new "pet needs" yellow pages is being published. The CHS will review the publication after it has been published to determine whether we would like to advertise in the future issues of this publication.

Survey: Craig Staehle, President of the Illinois Veterinary Herpetological Society, requests that CHS members complete and return a dietary survey regarding their pets. Copies of the survey were handed out at the board meeting.

Round Table:

The awards committee is traditionally chaired by the Sergeant-at-Arms, this year Art Nohlberg. The Members-at-Large make up the committee. Jack Schoenfelder and Art Nohlberg will convene a meeting of the Committee so that awards may be presented at the election meeting in November.

Ron Humbert suggested that all board members should be goodwill ambassadors for the Society at general meetings, by being available to answer questions from newcomers or other members.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by the Recording Secretary, Jill Horwich

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Chicago Herpetological Society will be held at 7:30 P.M., Wednesday, October 25, at the Field Museum of Natural History, Roosevelt Road at Lake Shore Drive, in Chicago. The speaker at this meeting will be Gerry Salmon of Rhinebeck, New York. Gerry will present a slide program on gray-banded kingsnakes and other kingsnakes of the *Lampropeltis mexicana* species complex. Not only will he show us just about every color phase and subspecies known, he will describe in detail where these animals come from, and when, how and by whom they were discovered.

The annual election of officers and members-at-large of the CHS Board of Directors will be held at the November 29 meeting. During the intervals while ballots are being tallied, members are invited to show their 35 mm slides. The slides should be herp-related and each member's presentation must last no longer than 10 minutes. Those who are interested in showing slides are asked to arrive early so that their slides can be placed into trays.

We are required to use the entrance on the west side of the museum. We have permission to use the staff parking lot to the west of the museum. Entrance to this lot is from McFetridge Drive, the wide street just to the south, between the museum and Soldier Field. There is also free parking available in the lot to the north of the museum. The #146 CTA bus goes directly to the museum. Unfortunately, it does not operate after 9:00 P.M. However, after the program anyone needing a ride to a CTA stop will have no trouble finding one—just ask any board member.

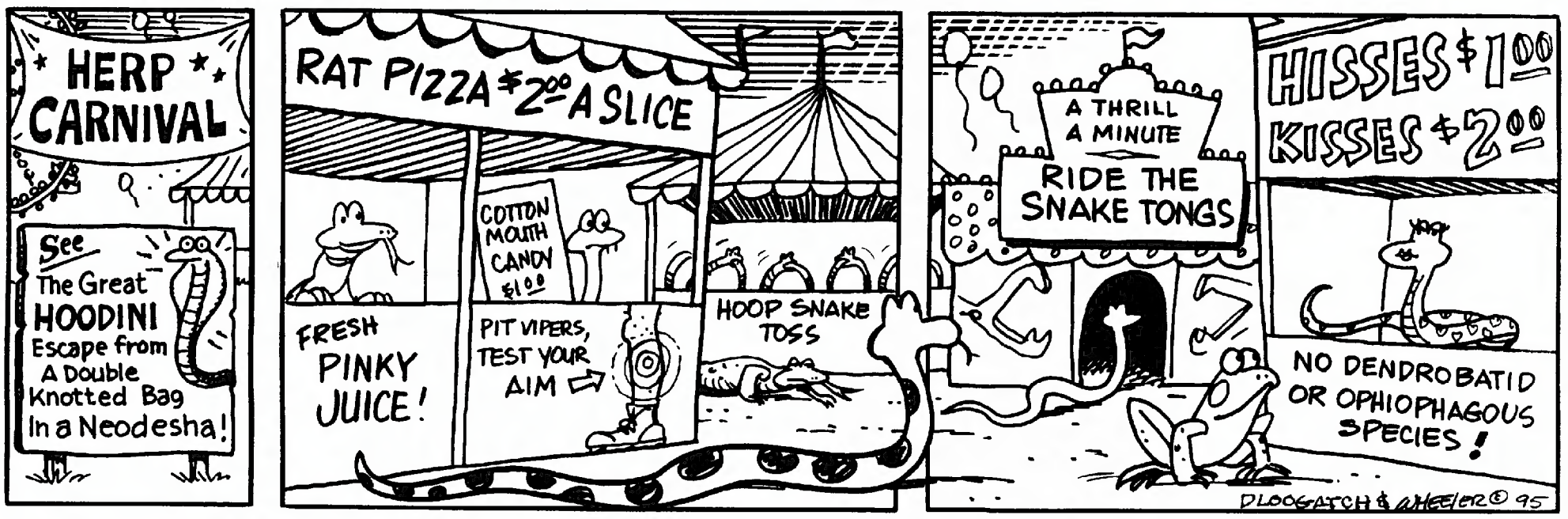
Turtle Club

The Chicago Turtle Club will meet Sunday, October 22, 1:00–3:30 P.M., at their new venue, the North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 N. Pulaski, in Chicago.

SEA TURTLE VIDEOTAPE

Caribbean Conservation Corporation (CCC) announces the availability of a spectacular new sea turtle video, *Tortuguero: Land of the Turtles*. Narrated by Oscar-winning actor Cliff Robertson, the 18-minute video includes rare footage of the sea turtles of Tortuguero, sea turtle nesting behavior, the threats sea turtles face and what can be done to protect them. Tortuguero Beach, located on the northeast coast of Costa Rica, is the site of the largest nesting colony of endangered green sea turtles in the Western Hemisphere. The video was produced to educate visitors at the H. Clay Frick Natural History Visitors Center in Tortuguero about the importance of the work being done by CCC. It is now available to the public for $14.95 and can be purchased by calling Caribbean Conservation at (800) 678-7853.

THE ADVENTURES OF SPOT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